**In the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 26-31 as follows:

These and other objects are accomplished by a suspension system having a flat spring member, a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with [[m = 1]] m ≥ 1, k preload elements, with [[k = 1]] k ≥ 1, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member, and whereby [[m+k = 3]] m+k ≥ 3.

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 10-14 as follows:

These and other objects are further accomplished by a satellite comprising a suspension system essentially as disclosed above, or a ~~psositioning respectively~~ positioning alignment assembly essentially as disclosed above, or an optical system essentially as disclosed above, whereby stops are being provided which provide for a protection during launch of the satellite.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 22 to page 9, line 4 as follows:

According to the present invention, a flat spring member is employed. The spring member has an so-called active area, i.e., an area that is displaceable/moveable. The spring member is attached to a suspension frame. Note that the word frame is not supposed to ~~indicated~~ indicate that the frame has to have a closed structure. An open frame or a section of a frame is suited as well. The spring member is at least at n=3 positions connected to the suspension frame. Herein a distinction is made between fixed connections and preload connections. A fixed connection is a connection that locally fixes the spring member with respect to

the suspension frame. A preload connection is a connection where a preload element is employed. The preload element is arranged with respect to the spring member in a manner to locally apply a preload force to the spring member. The fixed connection(s) and the preload connection(s) are ~~arrange~~ arranged with respect to the spring member so as to provide a positive stress in the spring member's active area. For this purpose the fixed connections and the preload connections are spaced apart. The active area is typically the area between the fixed and the preload connections.

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member, ~~and~~

~~whereby~~ wherein $m+k \geq 3$, and

wherein the k preload elements comprise one or more spring elements being attached to or being an integral part of the suspension frame.

2. (Original) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the spring member is a cross-like spring member having n=3 or n=4 legs and wherein the suspension frame comprises k=1 or k=2 preload elements.

3. (Original) The suspension system of claim 2, wherein the cross-like spring member is a membrane with cut outs.

4. (Currently Amended) The suspension system of claim 1, wherein the suspension frame and/or the spring member ~~comprise~~ comprises plastic, silicon or metal.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) Positioning or alignment assembly having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member, ~~and~~

~~whereby~~ wherein $m+k \geq 3$, and

wherein the k preload elements comprise one or more spring elements being attached to or being an integral part of the suspension frame.

7. (Withdrawn) The positioning or alignment assembly of claim 6 further comprising at least one actuator being mechanically coupled to the spring member or being mechanically coupled to an optical element suspended by the spring member, the actuator allowing the position of the spring member and/or 10 the optical element to be adjusted.

8. (Withdrawn) The positioning or alignment assembly of claim 7 further comprising a detection unit, preferably comprising a feedback sensor, and drive electronics.

9. (Withdrawn) The positioning or alignment assembly according to claim 6, being part of a communication system.

10. (Withdrawn) Optical system having a suspension system, the suspension system

comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an

active area of the spring member,

whereby $m+k \geq 3$,

the optical system further comprising an optical element being suspended by the spring member.

11. (Withdrawn) Optical system having an positioning or alignment assembly, the positioning or alignment assembly having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an

active area of the spring member, and

whereby $m+k \geq 3$,

the optical system further comprising an optical element being suspended by the spring member.

12. (Withdrawn) The optical system of claim 10, serving as fast-steering mirror system mirror system.

13. (Withdrawn) The optical system of claim 11, serving as fast-steering mirror system.

14. (Withdrawn) Satellite having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member,

whereby $m+k \geq 3$, and

whereby stops are being provided which provide for a protection during launch of the satellite.

15. (Withdrawn) Satellite having a positioning or alignment assembly, the positioning or alignment assembly having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an active area of the spring member, and

whereby $m+k \geq 3$, whereby stops are being provided which provide for a protection during launch of the satellite.

16. (Withdrawn) Satellite having an optical system, the optical system having a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring

member at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an

active area of the spring member,

whereby $m+k \geq 3$,

the optical system further comprising an optical element being suspended by the spring member,

whereby stops are being provided which provide for a protection during launch of the satellite.

17. (Withdrawn) Satellite having an optical system, the optical system having a positioning or alignment assembly, the positioning or alignment assembly having

a suspension system, the suspension system comprising

a flat spring member,

a suspension frame supporting the spring member by fixing the spring member, at m positions with respect to the suspension frame, with $m \geq 1$,

k preload elements, with $k \geq 1$, being arranged with respect to the suspension frame and the spring member in order to provide for positive stress in an

active area of the spring member,

whereby $m+k \geq 3$,

the optical system further comprising an optical element being suspended by the

spring member,

whereby stops are being provided which provide for a protection during launch of

the satellite.

**In the Abstract of the Disclosure:**

Please add the following Abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A suspension system comprises a flat spring member having four legs. The legs are symmetrically arranged with respect to the center position of the spring member and each of the legs has a longitudinal axis and an end portion. A suspension frame is provided to support the spring member by fixing the end portion of two legs. Two preload elements are arranged close to the end portions of two of the legs in a manner to apply a preloading force at those legs. The preloading force essentially points in the direction of the longitudinal axis.